NUCHATLITZ PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

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Date: Mar 31/03

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Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role
The **primary** role of Nuchatlitz Park is to protect special natural features. The park protects a great diversity of flora and fauna within an extensive range of terrestrial, intertidal and marine environments. The shoreline is an area of high importance for herring spawning, which makes the area significant for migrating gray whales. Also, the park protects sea otter and marbled murrelet habitat as well as a rare red-listed marine algae. Nuchatlitz Park is an excellent place to study intertidal life, as many tide pools can be found throughout the maze of islets and reefs that make up the park.

Secondary Role
The **secondary** role is to protect significant cultural heritage features. The area has a colourful history with First Nations heritage and European exploration and settlement. The park protects a number of archaeological sites, evidence that the area has been inhabited for thousands of years by First Nations people drawn to the region by the abundance of natural resources. Nuchatlitz borders a seasonally occupied First Nation village site of the same name. Such features add to the park's importance culturally and recreationally. Visitors can capture glimpses of the past and gain an understanding and appreciation of First Nation history and culture.

Tertiary Role
The **tertiary** role is to provide a high-quality marine recreation opportunity in a wilderness setting. Bordering both Esperanza Inlet and Nuchatlitz Inlet, and named after the old village site of Nuchatlitz on the northwest tip of Nootka Island, the park complements recreational activities offered by nearby Catala Island Marine Park. The remote islands contained in Nuchatlitz Park are becoming a popular destination for kayakers, offering both exposed coast and protected coves and beaches to explore. Other recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts exist, including boating, sport fishing, wildlife viewing, and wilderness camping in some of the small islands and sheltered areas. The park has a mix of anchorages that are somewhat exposed but a nearby anchorage at Mary Basin in Nuchatlitz Inlet is better suited for all weather conditions.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of knowledge of natural and cultural values	➢ Conduct an ecological inventory including marine and intertidal areas. ➢ Undertake a cultural inventory and traditions use study in conjunction with First Nations.
Impact of adjacent use (commercial fishing, aquaculture) on park values	➢ Work with DFO to ensure harvesting does not interfere with protection of marine species. ➢ Work with log salvage companies to achieve an understanding of park values. ➢ Work with adjacent land and tenure

	holders, and licensees to address issues along common boundaries (i.e. logging, oyster and fish farms). ➢ Conduct BRIM at campsites/trails and monitor for overuse and impacts to cultural values. ➢ Monitor popular moorage sites and sensitivity to holding tank discharge.
Impact of recreational use on natural and cultural values	➢ Monitor level of recreational use and consider limiting use if impacts are beyond an acceptable level. ➢ Develop a recreation plan to determine the specific number, location and types of recreation opportunities to offer in the park and determine the if site development or facilities are required to meet demand and reduce impacts. ➢ Work with First Nations on cultural management planning to: ▪ safeguard sensitive spiritual and archaeological sites; and ▪ identify sites suitable for public presentation. ▪ Monitor cultural sites.
Lack of awareness of the park and its special features	➢ Install signage, ensure boundaries of the park are on maps and charts. ➢ Enhance interpretation information through website. ➢ Support the external delivery of information that would focus on cultural and natural values and appropriate behaviours.
Relationship with First Nation	➢ Develop good working relationships with First Nations to develop and understanding and appreciation of protected area status and park values.

Zoning

Special Feature Zone – covers the entire park (2,105 hectares) as it has been occupied by First Nations for centuries and contain many significant cultural sites. The objective of this zone is to protect and present significant natural and cultural values because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Nuchatlitz Park makes a minimal contribution of 0.24% to the representation of the Windward Island Mountains Ecosection (WIM), which is well represented in the protected areas system at 17.4%. With 1,663 hectares of foreshore, it contributes 1.9% to the representation of the Vancouver Island Shelf *Marine* Ecosection (VIS), which is under protected provincially at 5.4%.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Nuchatlitz Park makes a minimal contribution of 0.56% to the representation of CWHvh1, which is well represented in the protected areas system at 19.3%.
Special Features	☒	Diverse marine, intertidal and upland ecosystems; sea otter habitat; bald eagle nests (7); reefs; islets; beaches; and rare species.
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	Provincially *red-listed* and nationally *threatened* marbled murrelet and sea otter. *Red-listed* non-vascular marine algae (*Sphaerotrichia divaricata*) that is rated S1 in the province. *Blue-listed* gray whale. COSEWIC-listed threatened northern abalone. Potential habitat for Olympia oyster (listed as Special Concern by COSEWIC).
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☒	Rare species

Recreation

Representation backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☒	Part of regional destination, kayaking and conditional anchorages
travel corridor	☒	Kayaking route through park, and junction for three routes at northwest corner
local recreation	☒	Moderate level of use in summer months
Special Opportunities	☐	Not applicable
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☒	Regional history, First Nation culture, and natural marine ecosystems and mammals - including sea otters

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☐	Values unknown

Special Feature	☒	22 First Nations heritage sites as Nuchatlitz has been inhabited by aboriginal people for centuries

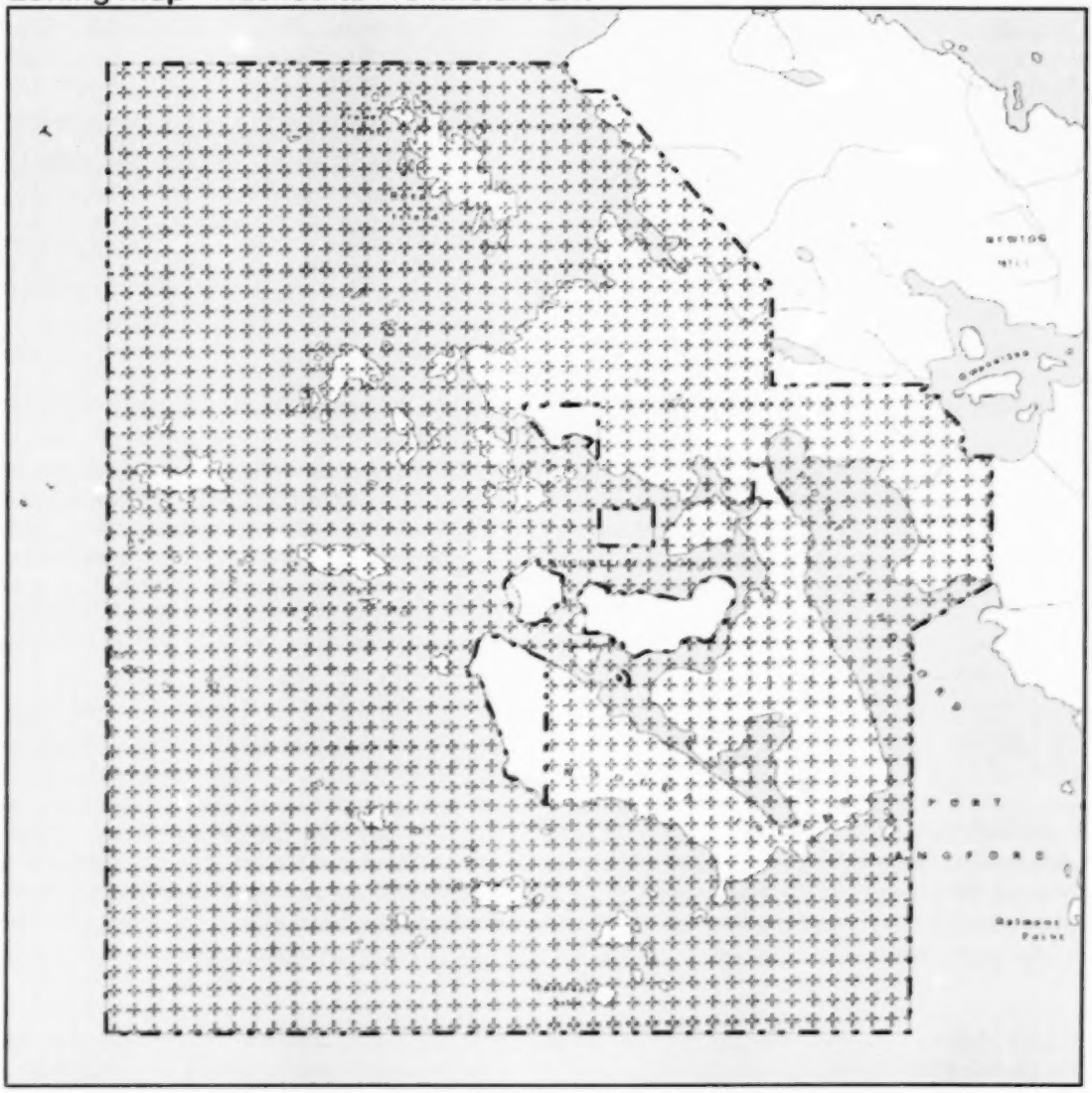
Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of marine protected areas on the west coast of Vancouver Island.
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☒	Commercial fishery closures specific to the park: Pacific oyster
Partnerships	☐	Not Applicable
Vulnerability	☒	The natural and cultural values are vulnerable to oils spills, recreational impacts, and commercial harvesting. The recreational values are vulnerable to trespass, oil spills, and adjacency issues.
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Marine Protected Areas Strategy; the park was created as a result of recommendations made in the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan Goal 2 process

Area: 2,105 hectares (442 ha upland; 1,663 ha foreshore)

Date of establishment: April 30, 1996

Zoning Map - Nuchatlitz Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Special Feature
Protected Area Boundary

0 1
km

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This is a visual representation only and should not be used for legal purposes.